

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 27, 29, and 32-36 remain pending in this application, with Claim 27 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 27.

Claims 27, 29, 32, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 10-10447 (Asami, et al.). Applicants traverse this rejection.

As recited in independent Claim 27, Applicants' invention is directed to a multi-beam scanning apparatus. The apparatus includes a light source unit and a housing having a wall, with the light source unit being supported on the wall. The light source unit includes a laser light source, a holder holding the laser light source, and a driving circuit board for driving the laser light source. The laser light source has a laser chip including a plurality of emission points.

The holder of the present invention includes a reference portion. Further, the laser light source is fixed to holder such that a hypothetical straight line connecting the plurality of emission points is inclined with respect to the reference portion of the holder so as to have an inclination angle equal to or close to a predetermined angle. The holder (to which the laser light source is now fixed) is fixed to the wall of the housing after the inclination angle of the hypothetical straight line is finally adjusted by rotating the holder.

With the arrangement described above, there is a two part adjustment of the hypothetical straight line connecting the emission points. Specifically, the *laser light source is fixed to the holder* such that the hypothetical straight line is inclined with respect

to the reference portion of the holder. In addition, the *holder is fixed to the wall* of the housing, after rotation of the holder to further adjust the angle of the hypothetical straight line.

Asami, et al. is also directed to a multi-beam light source unit which is mounted on a wall. However, Applicants submit that Asami, et al. does not disclose or suggest two separate mechanisms for adjustment of the emission points of the laser light source. Specifically, Asami, et al. describes that a holder 21, which holds the laser light source, is positioned in optical box 11, and then rotated about optical axis B to adjust the position of the emission points. That document does not describe that the holder has a reference portion which is used to position the emission points when the light source is attached to the holder, prior to fixing the holder to a wall for final adjustment by rotating the holder.

Thus, the present invention provides a holder which allows for minimization of final adjustment of the holder once mounted on the wall, through prior adjustment of the light source with respect to a reference portion of that holder, whereas Asami, et al. describes only the adjustment of the holder 21 to achieve positioning of the emission points.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Asami, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a holder having a reference portion wherein the laser light source is fixed to the holder such that a hypothetical straight line connecting the plurality of emission points is defined with respect to the reference portion of the holder so as to have an inclination angle equal to or close to a predetermined angle, and wherein the holder holding the light source is fixed to the wall of the housing after rotating the holder to

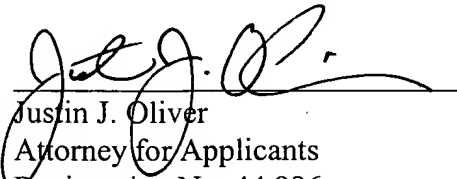
finally adjust the inclination angle of the hypothetical straight line, as recited generally in independent Claim 27.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claim 27 is allowable over the documents of record. The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from independent Claim 27, and thus are patentable over the applied document for reasons noted above with respect to that independent claim. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied document. Applicants request favorable and independent consideration thereof.

In view of the comments above, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Justin J. Oliver
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,986

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

JJO/tmm

DC_MAIN 202325v1